



# TREASURER-TAX COLLECTOR COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER • 1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, ROOM 112  
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101-2477 • (619) 531-5225 • FAX (619) 595-4605

web site: <http://www.sdtreastax.com>

DAN McALLISTER  
Treasurer-Tax Collector



## MEDIA RELEASE

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**Contact: Dan McAllister**

Phone: (619) 531-5225

Cell: (619) 920-0608

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### **San Diego County property tax bills go green; Bumper crop readied for mail and harvest**

San Diego County Treasurer-Tax Collector Dan McAllister announced today that beginning this year all County tax bills (secured, unsecured and supplemental) will “go green.” The move marks a first for San Diego County and represents only the second “bill go green” initiative by a California County Treasurer-Tax Collector.

“We are proud to help lead the way for California and other counties with this important initiative. Not only does this effort allow us to introduce and integrate environmentally friendly products to our annual billing and collecting efforts, it also represents another example of our commitment to providing our taxpayers with a bill that is customer-friendly and helpful,” McAllister said.

Over the next four weeks, 968,699 updated “green” property tax bills will be printed and mailed to San Diego County property owners. In all, the bills are expected to generate \$4,369,915,835.30 for the 2007-2008 tax year. Both the number of property tax bills and the amount they are expected to yield represent new records for the County.

“In San Diego County, each secured property tax bill mailing consists of five printed pieces including: the bill, two payment return envelopes, the tax bill insert and the mailing envelope. With 968,699 tax bills this year we will print and mail out nearly 5 million pieces of mail for the secured property tax bill alone. “Going green” by shifting to recycled paper exclusively for these mailings makes good sense. It is good for the environment, good for the County and good for the taxpayers of San Diego,” McAllister stated.

“This year County Treasurer-Tax Collectors throughout the state are expected to mail more than 11.6 million property tax bills to taxpayers. If all 58 counties in California were to follow suit in printing all elements of their respective tax bills on recycled materials, the overall impact on our environment would be significant,” McAllister added.

“Since 2004, when we first embarked upon the efforts to redesign the property tax bill, we have continued to seek ideas from taxpayers throughout the County as to how we can make the bill even more customer-friendly,” McAllister stated.

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“In addition to “going green” with the tax bills this year we have also revamped our tax bill insert and created, ***The Road Map to understanding your property tax bill***. The primary purpose of ***The Road Map*** is to focus attention on 12 areas of the property tax bill that foster the most questions each year. ***The Road Map*** offers a better explanation of how each tax dollar collected is allocated and gives taxpayers additional information regarding the various payment vehicles available to them.”

Each year the billing process is triggered by completion of the “tax roll” by the County Assessor with individual bill payment calculations completed by the County Auditor. The statements and tax bills are then printed and mailed to property owners.

“This is a real team effort here at the County. We want to make certain that all property owners receive their tax bills in a timely manner so they can plan their payments and avoid costly penalties,” said McAllister.

Payments are due in two equal installments on November 1<sup>st</sup> and delinquent after December 10, 2007 and February 1<sup>st</sup> and delinquent after April 10, 2008. Late payments automatically trigger late charges of 10% on the first installment payment; an additional penalty of 10% plus a \$10 cost redemption fee is applied on the second installment if it is late.

Each year an estimated 15,000 bills or 1.5% of all those mailed by the County will be returned as “undeliverable” by the U.S. Postal Service. Taxpayers should know that even *if they do not receive their property tax bills, they are still responsible for payment of the tax bill*. Anyone who does not receive their property tax bill within the next three weeks should call the Treasurer-Tax Collector Office toll free at: **1-877-TAX-4SDC** or **1-877-829-4732** to obtain a copy.

For taxpayer convenience, information is available and payments can be made on-line at the Treasurer-Tax Collector website: **[www.sdtreastax.com](http://www.sdtreastax.com)**

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